

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (WOLFF, LESTER) SNAR, TH
SUBJECT: CODEL WOLFF VISIT

REF: BANGKOK 1685

1. A 11-MEMBER CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION HEADED BY HIRC
EA SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LESTER WOLFF ARRIVED BANGKOK
JANUARY 17 FOR LUNCHEON MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER
KRIANGSAK. IN VIEW OF GROUP'S SHORT STAY NEITHER RTG NOR
EMBASSY PRESENTED ANY FORMAL BRIEFINGS. LUNCHEON AT
PRIME MINISTER'S RESIDENCE AND SUBSEQUENT PRESS CONFERENCE
WERE ONLY SCHEDULED EVENTS.

2. PRIME MINISTER'S LUNCHEON WAS INFORMAL AFFAIR ATTENDED
BY CODEL MEMBERS AND STAFF, THE AMBASSADOR, MS. FALCO,
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OAKLEY AND MR. O'KEEFE. AS
PERSONAL TOUCH, PRIMIN AND PERSONALLY PREPARED ONE OF THE
DISHES.

3. AT LUNCHEON PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER SENIOR GOVERN-
MENTAL OFFICERS PRESENT, INCLUDING DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
SUNTHORN AND FOREIGN MINISTER UPADIT, USED OCCASION TO
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WARMLY WELCOME DELEGATION AND TO, IN GENERAL FASHION,
TOUCH ON THEME OF THAI DETERMINATION TO BE SELF-RELIANT,
WHILE HOPING THAT USG WOULD BE INVOLVED IN
THE REGION AND CONTINUE TO ASSIST THAILAND IN ECONOMIC
AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE AREAS.

4. CHAIRMAN WOLFF AND OTHER CODEL MEMBERS STRESSED

CONTINUING INTENTION OF USG TO BE A PACIFIC POWER, INVOLVED IN AFFAIRS OF THE REGION, AND REITERATED THE MAJOR IMPORTANCE WE GIVE TO NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORTS IN THE AREA AND IN THAILAND PARTICULARLY. IN THAT CONTEXT, CHAIRMAN WOLFF EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR PRIME MINISTER'S LONG PERSONAL SUPPORT FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAMS AND THAILAND'S GOOD PERFORMANCE IN THAT RESPECT.

5. DURING INFORMAL TABLE DISCUSSIONS, PRIME MINISTER RAISED A VARIETY OF POINTS IN LOW KEY, INCLUDING HIS HOPE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD VISIT THAILAND, AS WELL AS VERY GENERALLY STATING INTEREST IN EXPEDITING US MILITARY ASSISTANCE ITEMS AND NEED FOR HELICOPTERS IN THAI NARCOTICS PROGRAMS. (PRIME MINISTER ALSO TOLD PRESS THESE POINTS.) CHAIRMAN WOLFF PROMISED TO CONVEY THE PRIME MINISTER'S INFORMAL INVITATION TO THE PRESIDENT, AS WELL AS TO LOOK INTO OTHER MATTERS BROUGHT UP.

6. SUPREME COMMAND DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL SAIYUT GAVE BRIEF PRESENTATION ON SECURITY SITUATION AND NEED FOR THAILAND TO RESOLVE INSURGENCY PROBLEM THROUGH ITS OWN EFFORTS. AT SAME TIME, SECONDED BY PRIME MINISTER, SAIYUT INDICATED RTG HOPE FOR CONTINUING USG SUPPORT AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE. IN TABLE CONVERSATION WITH CONGRESSMAN WOLFF, PRIME MINISTER BROUGHT UP QUESTION OF MILITARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSISTANCE AND PROMISED TO PROVIDE CHAIRMAN WITH LIST OF RTG PRIORITY NEEDS.

7. DISCUSSION REGARDING NARCOTICS WAS GENERAL, CONSTRUCTIVE AND FOCUSED ON THAILAND'S EFFORTS. AGRICULTURE MINISTER PRIDA OUTLINED CURRENT THAI THINKING ON CROP SUBSTITUTION RELATED ACTIVITIES.

8. PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK AND OTHER SENIOR MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT WERE OBVIOUSLY PLEASED BY CODEL VISIT, WHICH THEY INTERPRETED AS A VERY VISIBLE INDICATION OF A CONTINUING USG INTEREST IN THAILAND AND THE AREA. THAI LEADERS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN WOLFF AND OTHER MEMBERS OF CODEL ON US INTENTION TO REMAIN A PACIFIC POWER WHILE CONVEYING THAI CONCERNS ON THAT SCORE.

9. CODEL WOLFF'S STOP IN THAILAND WAS IN EMBASSY'S VIEW A MOST SUCCESSFUL AND USEFUL DEMONSTRATION OF CONTINUING, SYMPATHETIC CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN THAILAND AND THE PACIFIC AREA. CODEL VISIT ALSO HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE WE GIVE TO THE NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORTS IN THAILAND AND THE REGION.

10. TRANSCRIPT OF CODEL PRESS CONFERENCE HAS BEEN
TRANSMITTED REFTEL. THAI PRESS PLAN BEING REPORTED
SEPARATELY.
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